

### REMARKS

This is in response to the Office Action mailed October 14, 2003. In that Office Action, Claims 12-19, 21 and 22 were rejected under 35 USC §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,728,432 to Sugiyama et al. Claims 31, 32, 20 and 23, Claims 24-26 and 28, and Claims 30 and 33 were all rejected under 35 USC §103 as being unpatentable over Sugiyama et al. in combination with other secondary references.

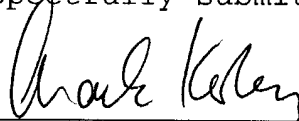
Claims 27 and 29 were deemed allowable if rewritten to include all of the limitations of the base claims and any intervening claims.

Claims 34-36 were allowed. In the statement of reasons for allowable subject matter, it was indicated that the process of making the membrane, as claimed in Claims 34-36, including advancing the support at the particular claimed rate was not suggested by the prior art of record. By this Amendment, Applicants have amended Claim 12 to include the further step of advancing the support with the blend applied thereon into at least one treatment bath at a rate of approximately 1-4 ft./min. It will be noted that the added advancement step includes an advancement rate expressed as a range of 1-4 ft./min., which is broader than the advancement rate recited in allowed Claim 36. Support for this step may be found at page 22, lines 6-7, of the application. For the same reasons as set forth in the Office

Action, Applicants believe that Claim 12, as amended, is likewise allowable. All of the remaining claims depend either directly or indirectly from amended Claim 12, and are likewise allowable.

Reconsideration and allowance of the present claims are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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